

Docket No.: FRON-10192
Application No.: 10/823,477
Amendment Date: June 21, 2006
Reply of Office Action of: March 21, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 6 with amended Figure 6 submitted herewith under separate letter to the draftsperson. The amendment includes replacement of a numeral "295" by the numeral –275–. The element referred to by the Examiner in his objection to the drawings is actually shown by the series of aligned circles representing back lights or backlighting. These circles were bracketed and erroneously labeled as element 295. Thus, the correction adds no new matter and only corrects a mislabeling. Therefore, entry of the drawings and a withdrawal of the objection are earnestly requested.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 21-35 are currently pending in the application. Applicant has canceled claims 6, 19, and 20, and amended claims 1, 7, 15, 21, and 22 to incorporate allowable matter into the independent claims and adjust the dependency. Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show element 275 recited in claim 30 as backlighting lamps. Figure 6 originally showed the backlighting lamps as a series of aligned circles surrounded by a labeling bracket erroneously labeled "295". Applicant has amended the drawings to correctly label the bracketed backlighting lamps with numeral -275-. Thus, no new matter was entered. Applicant believes that every feature of the invention specified in the claims is now properly shown in the drawings and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Objections to Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 6-7 and 20-21 for being dependent on rejected base claims 1 and 15. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 20, respectively, and any intervening claimed matter as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objections to claims 6-7 and 20-21 be withdrawn.

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Indication of Condition for Allowance

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of condition for allowance for the above referenced application but for the few formal matters. Applicant believes that all formal matters have been resolved, that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the same.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claims 1-2 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna").

Claims 6 and 20 have been canceled and the allowable matter thereof has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 15 for immediate allowance of these claims and claims 2 and 16 which depend therefrom. On the other hand, Applicant does not agree with the rejection based on Pokharna. However, Applicant will submit any amendments and/or remarks in a preliminary amendment filed with a continuing application.

The rejection of claims 1-2 and 15-16 is, therefore, obviated. Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejections of claims 1-2 and 15-16 be withdrawn.

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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the cited prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Furthermore, the suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based upon the Applicant's disclosure. A failure to meet any one of these criteria is a failure to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP §2143.

Claims

Claims 3 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna"), as applied to the above claims and in view of Bowman et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0108744, hereinafter "Bowman").

Claims 5, 13, 19 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna"), as applied to claim 1 above.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna"), as applied to claim 1 above and in view of Chu et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0001310, hereinafter "Chu").

Claims 11-12 and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna"), as applied to claim 1 above in view of Baier (U.S. Patent No. 4,987,749, hereinafter "Baier").

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Claims 14 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna"), as applied to claim 13 above and in view of Enomoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,938,432, hereinafter "Enomoto").

Claims 8-10 and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna"), as applied to the above claims in view of Parker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,793, hereinafter "Parker").

Claims 26-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokharna et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/011183, hereinafter "Pokharna"), as applied to claim 15 above and in view of Heady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,153, hereinafter "Heady").

Claim 19 has been canceled and its matter added to claim 15 together with the allowable matter of claim 20 to obtain immediate allowance of this application. The rejections of claims 3-5, 7-14, 17-18, and 21-35 are, therefore, obviated. On the other hand, Applicant does not agree with the rejections of these claims under 35 USC 103, and an amendment and/or remarks will be submitted in a preliminary amendment together with a continuing application.

Nevertheless, with allowable matter in each of the independent claims Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 3-5, 7-14, 17-18, and 21-35 be withdrawn.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated the allowability of the scope and subject matter of claims 6-7 and 20-21, but objected to the form of the claims, they being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

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The format of the claims has been amended herein without changing their scope to incorporate the allowable elements in the respective base claims upon which they depended and all intervening claims, and are therefore allowable. Canceled claims 6, 19, and 20 have been canceled and the allowable matter therein incorporated into the base claims in favor of an allowance. A continuing application may be filed to pursue broader coverage.

Regarding Doctrine of Equivalents

Applicant hereby declares that any amendments herein that are not specifically made for the purpose of patentability are made for other purposes, such as clarification, and that no such changes shall be construed as limiting the scope of the claims or the application of the Doctrine of Equivalents.

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CONCLUSION

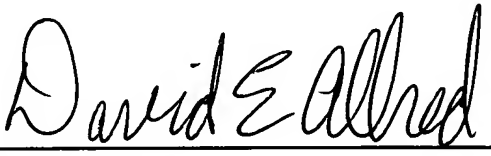
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The amendments herein added no new claims, resulting in no fees due.

If any fees, including extension of time fees or additional claims fees, are due as a result of this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0513. This authorization is intended to act as a constructive petition for an extension of time, should an extension of time be needed as a result of this response. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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